THURSDAY, DECEMBER 26, 1873.

Amusements To-Day Booth's Theatre Henry Dunbar.
Bowery Theatre Harne the Hunter, 1
Dan Bryant's Minstrela-Twenty-third street. Fifth Avenue Theatre-New You's Eve. Ac Grand Opera House-Round the Clock, Niblo's Garden Lee and Letis. Siblo's Garden Les Cent Vierges.

Hympiq Theatre-Les Cent Vierges.

San Francisco Ministrelle. t. James Theatre -San Fran

Theatre Comique-Ding-Dong Bell, Tony Pastor's Opera House-Humpty Dumpty Union Square Theatre-School for Scandal. Wood's Museum-Babes in the Woods. Matter

Terms of The Sun. ORDIVARY ADVERTISING, per line, BRADES MATTER, with "ADV." after it, lat or 2d 42 50 All Advice tracts to the read of sold Agate space.
Advicementation is Saut Warden, to contract the compared to the sold agate space.
Leaves to secretarize the space of the the space mounted. Calculated by a space of the space d Agate space.

For the accommodation of up-town residents, adver tisements for THE SUN will be received at our regular rates at the up-town advertisement offices 54% West Thirty-second street, Junction of Broadway and Sixth avenue, and 398 West Twenty-third street, opposite Grund Opera House, and on the east side at 511 Grand Street, near East Broadway, from S A. M. to S:30 P.M.

Mr. Boutwell and Taxation.

The difficulty with Secretary BOUTWELL Is fundamental. He has no just conception, no comprehensive view of the financial situation. He is a political partisan of a narrow type. He wants to be Governor of Massachusetts, he wants to be member of Congress, he wants to be of the impeaching counsel, he wants to be a Cabinet officer, he wants to be United States Senator, and so on. And he has been, is, and will probably be all these, and perhaps more. What he is after more than anything else, therefore, is to do what is popular at the moment; and so, without meaning it, and without knowing it, he occupies a position among the meanest of public men. He does not aim to do the right thing, but the most popular thing; and this, in connection with his lack of mental vision, produces the dismal disquisitions upon banking, currency, and the resumption of specie payments to be found in his annual re-

He does not grasp the facts of the situation, and he would not grasp them if he could. He won't make himself a target for anybody. He thinks everything is charming as it is, and he would think just so if everything was different. He handles the question of the national solveney and the honest obligation to pay one's debts as though they were red-hot pokers. He does not recognize any obligation to pay where it is easier to lie and cheat. He does not say a word about the lying promises of the Treasury, which go on from month to Laonth and from year to year wholly disregarded and unperformed. He is the very DARWIN of finance. He thinks dishonesty will gradually grow into honesty. He thinks a policy of non-payment leads gradually to payment. He thinks the ways of insolvency lead gradually to solvency. He thinks suspension will turn naturally at last into resumption.

The idea of rectifying the condition of our foreign balances by bribing people to engage in the foreign trade is soberly put forth in the annual message of the President, and seems to be concurred in by Mr. BOUTWELL. They both say the balance of trade is largely against us, and that a good way to restore it would be to have a large mercantile fleet earning money abroad. Now it would seem that a natural method to get such a fleet would be to relieve our shipping ludustry of the tax: tion which is crushing it, and so allow it to rise of its own vitality. But this is not the Administration's way. Mr. BOUTWELL wants the taxes kept on, so that he can continue to pay off large amounts of the public debt in order that he can boast of the reduction on the stump, and thus secure to himself the political advantages he seeks. Therefore it is proposed, instead of taking off the taxes, to hire rich companies owning ships to embark in foreign commerce-in a word, to play at foreign trade and to compensate them with subsidies out of the national Treasury. This is called encouraging commerce and recovering our

Well, well, it would seem that if ever this world is to get any wiser, such stuff as this should be kept out of official documents. It is to tell us in substance that we ought to tax our general shipping interest out of existence for political purposes, and to use the taxes thus obtained to fee and subsidize the rich proprietors of sundry steamship lines, who keep open houses in Washington for the sole purpose of dining and wining members of Congress, under the plea and pretence that it is a good way of reviving our depressed and ruined foreign commerce!

old prosperity and prestige on the ocean

Gen. GRANT and Mr. BOUTWELL do not see, and do not seem to want to see, that the primary evils with which the country is afflicted are over-taxation and a depreciated currency. Their methods all proceed on the assumption that these evils are of small account, or are irremediable. What gross and fatal mistakes! Instead of adopting a line of action directed to the removal of these evils so far as pos sible, they only advise methods of aggravation. Mr. BOUTWELL having safely got through the Presidential election, does not want the taxes reduced any further. According to his own showing, he will have next year a surplus of sixty millions, besides what he has now on hand, which is not less than seventy-five millions; and yet he has not one word to say in behalf of | for a nap when this stage of the defence is curing the depreciated condition of the currency, except as it used to be proposed to cure stavery-namely, by leaving it to the reading is through. Providence. In all such cases Providence has a very summary way of dealing with the follies and vices of mankind; and one would think, in view of our recent experiences in this line, that the reference of our affairs to the settlement of that supreme agene, was not the most judicious

disposition of themi. Unjust and unnecessary taxation is to remain, with all its depressing and deadly influences. How depressing and how deadly, the condition of our shipping interests is but one evidence. Another and most signal fruit of it is to be found in the high prices of commodities, leading great straits among the working population, and driving people to-day full of wandering Americans who say they are there because they can live unpopular. And then he began his cita-

cheaper than at home. But a yet more striking evidence of over-taxation and the consequent depression of industry is to be found in the constant invitation of towns and cities to capitalists to invest in this and that domestic industry, by offering an immunity of municipal taxation for a number of years, thus clearly demonstrat- Grant began to be encouraged. "Jering that the fact not only exists that overtaxation is universally depressing the in- the devil himself." The New Englanders dustry of the country, but that everybody feels and knows that it exists.

And yet all these proofs of the fact seem to be entirely lost upon the Federal Administration. Not one word is uttered by President or Secretary on the opening of the present session of Congress in behalf of any alleviation of the great crushing influence that weighs down the country. Congress might to-morrow let up the shipping interest by lifting its burdens, and not pay a dollar of bonus or subsidy to get it back to its old footing. It might throw off with perfect safety fifty millions of taxes, and let in light and sunshine upon numerous judustries now languishing or wholly dormant, and give them growth. But Congress waits for the initiative and the suggestions of the Executive, and these do not come; and they will not come while men of Mr. BOUTWELL's calibre, with objects and motives such as we have described, preside in the Administration.

Fire Insurance.

It is certainly impossible for any fire in surance company to make money and pay dividends, if all large cities are to share the fate of Chicago and Boston. It is equally impossible to provide against a calamity of such proportions by increasing the premium. A company with a million dollars capital cannot remain solvent if it takes a risk of two millions and loses it, unless it charges a premium of fifty per cent. There is no such thing in the world as an insurance company in regular business that could pay all of its risks; and the only thing that makes a fire policy of any value is the inflexible law which settles the regular proportion of fires just as accurately as the annual rainfall of any given decade is settled-by average. Thus it is notorious that in what are termed firstclass risks there is less than one loss in two hundred risks, because first-class companies, which have been paying large dividends since their formation, have never charged more than the half of one per centum, and in many cases far less than this proportion.

In addition to these regular dividends, the companies that have been well managed have also accumulated large surplusses under the low rates. Some of them were heavy losers both in Chicago and Boston, and still have a portion of their surplus left. In fact, the object of the surplus is to provide for rare contingencies like the cases mentioned, and, except for such unusual disasters, the dividends of ten or twelve per cent. might have been doubled each half year out of this very surplus fund, because it is demonstrable from carefully prepared tabular state ments, that ordinary losses do not occur once in two hundred times. If this were not true, the whole scheme of fire insurance would be nothing more than a complicated system of gambling, and the success or failure of any company would depend upon luck instead of management. It is not probable that any board of directors or board of underwriters will acknowledge that they rely rather upon good fortune than upon good judgment and executive

The principle upon which rates of premium are based is not changed by uncommon disasters. Against these there is no possible guarantee that can leave a profit panies profess to provide for possible variation in ordinary fire statistics by the creation of a surplus fund for extraordinary cases of wholesale destruction; and thus, by prudent management, many companies have ke't their capital intact. while they have paid in full their proper tion of loss in Chicago and Boston

Brother Beecher's Defence of Grant. Simple people, unfamiliar with capital trials and unacquainted with the practice of the law, are sometimes heard to express surprise that lawyers can be found to undertake certain desperate cases: for there are cases, as is well known, in which the facts are so plain and indisputable, the law and the testimony so direct and conclusive, that to the ordinary unprofessional mind there seems nothing to be done but for the accused to plead guilty and throw himself on the mercy of the Court. Yet there is no case so desperate but some professional person will undertake it; and, to the surprise o the uninitiated, there is no case in which a lawyer of experience will not raise up some

ort of defence. When the facts are patent and undeniable there is always one routine. It consists in the citation at great length and with ingeniously interwoven comment and analogy, of what are known in the books a celebrated causes, records, for instance, of conviction upon the most indubitable evidence, and the subsequent discovery either of the person supposed to have been murdered, or some fact of mistaken identity. or some other conclusive proof of error in the conviction. Bench and bar are famil iar with these, and expect them just as much as they expect anything; and the course of this argument and the prece dents and citations have now come to be so familiar that the ordinary juryman who has served in the panel or listened in the lobby in capital trials composes himself reached, only leaving word with his unsophisticated neighbor to wake him up when

This line of argument and manner of freatment presuppose three conditions, namely, a desperate case, an able lawyer and a weak jury.

Brother BEECHER knew well enough the ondition of his case, however he may have estimated his own ability and the wit of his jury, when he undertook the other night before the New England Society, in his response to the first regular toast, a defence of President GRANT. If he did not succeed entirely, it may at least be said that he did the best he could under the circumstances. Admitting with the shrewdness of a practised advocate that circumstances were rather against his client, he went on immediately to show that the of moderate means abroad by thou-sends to seek cheaper living. Europe is traordinary, and that a great many of his most distinguished predecessors had been

had been called a notoriously incompetent President. The New Englanders who had been struggling to believe in GRANT pricked up their ears at this. "JOHN ADAMS was not a popular President," said he, and the New Englanders who wanted to admire FERSON was considered as little better than who had voted for GRANT under protest were now feeling better. "Madison was thought damnable." Well, well, it was not so great an offence to vote for GRANT, after all. Then came MONROE, and JOHN QUINCY ADAMS, and JACKSON, and VAN BUREN, and HARRISON, all unpopular ac-cording to Brother BEECHER, and the New England conscience that had been racked at voting for GRANT began to be easy and

comfortable. Brother BEECHER had now done his work. There was a genial glow over the whole audience. The New England conscience was quiet. The New England complacency had settled into self-sufficiency and perfect peace. Why, oh, why did not Brother BEECHER stop then? He had got through. It was enough. Had he closed his citation of precedents just there, and thrown in, by way of peroration, his wonderfully worked up admiration of the blushes with which Gen. GRANT walked down the aisle at the funeral of the man who was done to death by caricature, slander, corruption, and fraud, he would have gained his cause.

But Brother BEECHER had got a going. He kept on. He cited TYLER, and the New Englander yawned at the stretching out of the line to the crack of doom; Polk, and the New Englander began to think it was getting too modern to be interesting: FILLMORE, and the force of the argument was visibly weakening; Pierce-"Good heavens!" said the uneasy New Englander, " has the man only seared our consciences preparatory to roasting?" and then-the toppling down of the whole line of precedents, the last straw that broke the conscience-stricken New Englander's back, the refinement of crucity that first made them self-complacent and then overwhelmed them with remorse-he cited JAMES BUCHANAN, the only President Gen. GRANT ever voted for, as an instance of undeserved unpopularity!

And then Brother Beecher stepped down, having done it too much. Beginning with Washington, why could not be have ended short of BUCHANAN? Brother BEECHER! Brother BEECHER!! Be wise in ime. If on some other occasion you are driven to cite the line of precedents, be ginning with the psalmist DAVID, stop, stop, we beg you, before you come to BRIGHAM YOUNG.

A Sitty Invention-The Apprehension of a Vigilance Committee.

One of the silliest inventions of the day. as we are bound to believe, is the conjecture of a vigilance committee in the case of John E. Simmons, an account of which was published in the Times of Tuesday. We do not mean any reflection upon the Times in the matter, and we have no doubt its report was accurate.

But what are we to say of a sheep-faced police, to be frightened by such a bug-

We believe that JOHN E. SIMMONS was as afe on his cot in the Park Hospital, where

What had he done that a vigilance comnittee should wreak vengeance upon him? circumstances? He had not only killed a man, but as he killed him with a knife to the underwriters. All the underwriters and cut the jugular vein the death was a in the world could not pay for London, for particularly bloody one; and human blood and CALDWELL visited in company this lobby example, if London and its movable wealth | is not a pleasant sight to look upon. How- agent, who denied CALDWELL's claim, but in were reduced to ashes to-night; and the ever, the quantity of blood shed does not such terms as to satisfy Mr. Penny that while corporations which assume to guard their determine the quality of a death. Every CALDWELLhad some right to expect that amount corporations which assume to guard their determine the quality of a death. Every other determine the quality of a death. Every of help, the company was not bound to pay it. to do more than assume ordinary risks, in | ble homicide; while murder in the first dethe true sense of that term. All com- gree might be committed upon another without opening his veins.

We do not mean to express or intimate any opinion in SIMMONS's case beyond this It was not an unprovoked murder by any means. All accounts agree that DURYEA struck the first blow. Sixyons had called him a thief, but that was no justification of Dunyea's assault upon him, for in law no words justify a blow. This is an elementary and a familiar principle.

After the first blow the men clinched. fell, pummelled each other, rolled over. and the right became so desperate that each of the combatents sustained the fracture of a leg. Finally SIMMONS was victorious and DURYEA died. Of whatever offence Simmons was guilty in killing his assailant and antagonist, we earnestly hope that he will be convicted and punished according to law. It is for the law that we stand in every case-for the law. and for nothing different and nothing else. It is very shocking and very revolting that in the heart of a nominally Christian community a bloody affray should occur between two men, in which one of them is slain; but is anything gained to the cause of law and order by indiscriminately ranking all crimes as of the same degree This is not the doctrine of the law, of justice, or of common sense. Is an offence like SIMMONS's to be confounded with such crimes as the murder of Rogers or of

NATHAN? Only a few days ago our able contemporary, the Times, published an editorial justification of citizens going armed. Go armed for what? To throw away their weapons if attacked, or to use them? Of course, it is at their peril if they earry the use of them beyond the requirements of the circumstances in which they find themselves placed; but even upon such i use, where the party slain makes the first assault, our law looks with comparative leniency. A person who makes an unlaw ful assault upon another does it at the peril of being killed even after his attempted chastisement shall have failed, without the person assaulted committing any higher offence than manslaughter in the second degree. The Revised Statutes say that every person who shall unnecessarily kill another, while resisting an attempt by such other person to commit a felony, or to do any other unlawful act, or after such attempt shall have failed, shall be deemed guilty of manslaughter in the second de-

gree. And now, to recur to the supposed danter of a vigilance committee, we are of ppinion that if the police apprehended anything of the kind they were credulous and weak; and if they were not in fear they ought not to have brought on the city the seandal of such a report. It is all nonsense about any proposed attack upon Simmons He is in the hands of the law; he will be fairly tried; and if he is found guilty he will be punished for precisely that degree of offence of which he is found guilty. schools of a higher grade.

tions. Washington, Mr. BEECHER said, Homicides do enough to injure the reputation of the city without any exaggeration of their enormity, and without any silly rumors, originating in sickly or heated imaginations, of proposed vigilance commit-

> It is fashionable now to eulogize the English courts and to talk about how much better criminal law is administered by them than it is in this city. A case of homicide by stabbing, tried in the Crown Court on the 7th day of this present December, is reported in the London Times as follows:

"It appeared that the prisoner and deceased were betting on a game of bowls, which was being played by two other men, and the prisoner lost the last bet. but did not pay it, and went away. The deceased therefore followed him and demanded it, and a scuffe ensued, in which the prisoner got the worst of it. The scuffe was afterward renewed, when the deceased was stabbed by the prisoner in the stomach with a chisel, and shortly afterward died. The defence was that the prisoner used the chisel in self-defence, and the prisoner was acquitted."

Death by Fire.

It is but a few days since the public was shocked by the horrible death of nearly a dozen poor girls, who were smothered or roasted by the fire at the Fifth Avenue Hotel. The cause of this terrible calamity was directly traced to the presence of a death trap in the building, an elevator running parallel with the only stairway affording egress from the apartments where the victims met their terrible fate. This elevator afforded at once a draught to feed the flames and an uninterrupted passage for their progress. The consequence was that the fire, rushing furiously through this opening, speedily struck the adjoining stairway and cut off all chance of escape or

On Tuesday afternoon, in broad daylight, the Caxton buildings in Centre street took fire while the upper stories were filled with industrious men and women. The fire caught on the third floor, and having at hand the same fatal means for rapid progress that were present in the Fifth Avenue Hotel, soon wrought a similar work of destruction. Through the elevator the flames made their way with lightning rapidity to the top of the six-story tinder box, destroying in their course the stairway which ran beside it. Most of the terror-stricken inmates of the upper stories made their escape by the fire ladder or otherwise, as best they could, some of them receiving severe injuries in endeavoring to avoid the flames, while others, less fortunate, found their egress entirely cut off, and perished miserably almost within the sight of hundreds of spectators. And thus seven human be-

ings were burned to death in this fire. The warning of these two calamities should be heeded at once. Just such deathtraps exist in large buildings in every part of the city. It was in a great mensure owing to the ready channels furnished for the progress of fire by such elevators as these that the great Boston conflagration so quickly gained a headway beyond the power of control, and that lesson, too, should be heeded. It is imperatively necessary that some immediate and systematic means should be adopted by the proper authorities to release this city from the peril imposed by the use of elevators so constructed.

It appears to be an unsettled question thether it is cheaper for milroad corporations to purchase seats for Congressmen or buy them after they are elected in the ordinary manner he was lying for his broken leg to heal, as The Washington correspondent of the Boston he ever was in his own bed in his own Advertiser says that the Senate committee inquiring into the case of Senator CALDWELL of Kansas, among other bits of information has learned that Calbwell made application to Mr. mittee should wreak vengeance upon him?

PERRY, President of the Kansas Pacific Railroad, for \$30,000, as its share of his election expenses, declaring that the regular lobby agent of that road at Topeka had agreed that the company All this throws a flood of light upon the influ ences depended on to elect Administration Sen ators in Kansas, and also affords a clue to a res sonable explanation of the elevation to the GENT of California, who represents only the Central Pacific Railroad Company, and was recently burnt in effigy by his nominal constituents in San Francisco.

> Our suggestive neighbor, the Times, thinks that the increased demand for seal skins calls for the artificial breeding of scals. But, however great the demand for seal skins may be, it is nothing compared to that which will soon spring up for rhinoceros hides if the is to continue its wanton attacks upon every decent man in the community. CHARLE O'CONOR, SAMUEL J. TILDEN, ABRAM S. HEWITT, and other leading reformers seem to need then already.

> The people of Buchanan county, Mo., have been engaged in a search for \$15,000 of county funds which had somewhat mysteriously disappeared. Five commissioners had been ap-pointed to select a site for a lunatic asylum, and the County Court of Buchanan county made an order appropriating \$15,000 to the benefit of the asylum in case it should be located in St. Joseph. Sure enough the commissioners made St. Joseph their choice, and the money was paid to somebody, but to whom was for a time a matter of uncertainty. There were rumors of corruption, and it was boldly asserted that the money was used for the purpose of what is called slushing the commissioners, an operation probably equivalent to that of greasing, as un derstood in the New York Custom House. The commissioners were indignant, and demanded in investigation. A Mr. BITTINGER then came orward and said he had been appointed by the Court agent of the fund, which was placed in his ands to be used as he might think best in the way of securing the location of the asylum at St. Joseph, and that, not liking the terms of the trust, he transferred the money into the hands of one Col. CLAIBORNE. At this point Col. CLAIBORNE was called on, and trankly admitted that he had received the \$15,000, and kept it, not as a reward for his honesty exactly, but as a recompense for his services in the matter, and that he had no divided with any one. Strange to say this explanation has given but little satisfaction, and east of all to the commissioners who located

> the asylum. Still we are not entirely out of elephants. BARNUM lost one by fire, and ORTON sold one at an advance; but BARNUM saved two, and will shortly buy some more; and the chances are ten o one that GRANT will draw two or three when he makes a new Cabinet.

Various important changes have been re cently introduced in the elementary publischools of Prussia. The sub-divisions as to sexes have been abolished, and the schools divided nto three grades, with instruction suited to the different stages of advancement. In small districts where it is not practicable to have more than two teachers two classes have been formed, an upper and a lower class, instead of dividing the school into boys' and girls' departments. Hereafter the hours devoted to religious instruction will be fewer, and the time thus saved will be devoted to history and geography, which are o be taught more practically than heretofore. If the results of these changes meet the expectations entertained in regard to them, it is probable that similar ones will be introduced in

TAXATION IN JERSEY CITY. \$20,000,000 OF RAILROAD PROP-

ERTY EXEMPTED. Demand for Financial Reform-The Exempted Property in Detail-How Investigations are Prosecuted Across the River-Useful Information for Jerseymen.

For several months past the citizens of Jersey City have been spasmodically agitated on the questions of reform and of the exemption tempts to create an effective organization and omote legislative proceedings to repeal the exemption laws were abortive. Not because the people were not in earnest, however, but by reason of the operations of some of the leading property holders, largely interested in the railoads, who in all these organizations assumed a leading position, and impressed the people with the idea that it was their extensive improvements and the consequent taxes thereon that burdened them, and that the taxes to which the

burdened them, and that the taxes to which the railroads would be liable were but a drop in the sen of assessments.

The Eric Railroad Company was a favorite example. The taxes of that corporation were but \$90,000, they said, and on that amount they harped, until many of the people became impressed with the idea that it was but a small matter anyhow, and again they turned their attention to the charter and the doings of the Board of Public Works under its authority. Evidences of negligent management were abundant, and so great was the outery that M. H. Gillette, the President of the Board, called a meeting of the leading property holders, and several committees were appointed to investigate the workings of the different departments of the city government.

INVESTIGATION.

INVESTIGATION.

INVESTIGATION.

These committees have had four meetings and so far their doings have ended in smoke. If they have investigated the matter of railroads, they and they only know the result of their investigations. The books of the assessors show that within the corporate limits of the city railroad property of the aggregate value of almost twenty millions of dollars is exempted from taxation. \$15,926,000 of this amount is assessed upon real estate, the balance upon the personal property of the corporations. This vast amount of proper is located generally in the best business sections of the city and is divided among the different companies as shown in the appended specifications, taken from the books of the district assessors:

Property council by the New Jersey Raitroad and Transportation Company exempted from taxation in the main by special legication.

First Dist., block 28, Hudson st., lots 35 to 64... \$36,000

First Dist., block 39, Hudson st., lots 35 to 64... First Dist, block 39, Mercer st., lots 1 to 13 and 13 to 22. First Dist., block 39, Montgomery st., lots 2 to irst Dist., block 40, Hudson st., lots 65 to 72., irst Dist., block 40, Wayne st., lots 14 to 24 and Dist., block 40, Mercer st, lots 8, 1, 12, and First Dist., block 72.Plymouth st., lets 28 to 48... First Dist., block 72, Washington st., lots 89 to First Dist., block 72. Greene st., plots 25 to 27... First Dist., block 164, Washington st., lots 90 to First Dist., block 104, Wayne st., lots 49 to 63, ... First Dist., block 104, Warren st., plots of 65 to

First Dist., block 104, Warren st., lots 66 to 72. First Dist., block 104, Plymouth st., lots 50 to 64

Heren blocks.

Eleren blocks.

Distribute the transfer of transfer of the transfer of transfer Second Dist., block 82, River 81., lots 1 to 32.
Second Dist., block 105, Washington 81, lots 107, 188 and 110.
Second Dist., block 105, Stenben 81, lots 107, Second Dist., block 105, Stenben 81, lots 107, Second Dist., block 110, North 81, lots 1 to 32.
Second Dist., block 111, North 81, lots 1 to 32.
Second Dist., block 111, North 81, lots 1 to 32.
Second Dist., block 111, North 81, lots 1 to 32.
Second Dist., block 114, North 81, lots 1 to 32.
Second Dist., block 114, North 81, lots 1 to 32.
Second Dist., block 144, Meadow 81, lots 1 to 32.
Second Dist., block 144, Meadow 81, lots 1 to 32.
Second Dist., block 145, Meadow 81, lots 1 to 32.
Second Dist., block 145, Meadow 81, lots 1 to 32.
Second Dist., block 146, Meadow 81, lots 1 to 32.
Second Dist., block 174, Provost 81, lots 1 to 32.
Second Dist., block 174, Provost 81, lots 1 to 32.
Second Dist., block 175, Provost 81, lots 1 to 32.
Second Dist., block 175, Provost 81, lots 1 to 32. and Dist., bleek 125, Provost 11, Provost 14, 11 15 to 72, 10 to ks 116 and 177, Provost 14, at 15 to 15, b to 18, and 25 to 32 and Dist., block 118, Brunswick 14, lots 1 ond Dist., block 118, Brunswick 14, lots 1 122,000 to 4.
second Dist, block 415, Sixth st., lots 41 to 52, second Dist, block 505, Grove 56.
First Dist, parts of blocks 212, 237, 283, 817, 384, 393, 89 lots, with improvements.
Fourth Dist, block 602, 1 plot.
Fourth Dist, block 502, 1 plot.
Furchased intely in Second, Third, Fifth, and Sixth Districts, about

\$6,090,000 The New Jersey Company acquired their privileges slowly, but the Eric Railway, the next ompany in order, gained theirs in one swoop by the passage of a buil exempting all their real and personal property within the city limits at personal property within the city limits a session of the Legislature in 1867. The ac introduced by Mr. James Doremus, electer that time employed as division paymas on the Eric Railway. Their exhibit is a lower. Dock and Eric Railway Exempted Property. Second Dist., block 20, wharf and pier, First st. \$200.00 Second Dist., block 21, wharf and pier, Eighth st. \$400.00 Second Dist., block 25, ferry house, &c. \$200.00 Second Dist., block 25, Hudson st., freight and \$100.00 ist. block 24, Rudson st., freight pier

150,000 Second Dist., block 25, Hudson st., tots 1 to 22, Second Dist., block 51, Hudson st., lots 1 to 22, Second Dist., block 52, Hudson st., lots 1 to 22, Second Dist., block 53, Hudson st., lots 1 to 22, Second Dist., block 53, Hudson st., lots 1 to 22, Second Dist., block 53, Hudson st., lots 1 to 22, Second Dist., block 55, Hudson st., lots 1 to 22, Second Dist., block 85, Hudson st., lots 1 to 22, Second Dist., block 85, Hudson st., lots 1 to 22, Second Dist., block 85, Pavonia av., lots 1 to 22, Second Dist., block 85, River st., lots 1 to 32, Second Dist., block 85, River st., lots 1 to 32, Second Dist., block 85, River st., lots 1 to 32, Second Dist., block 85, River st., lots 1 to 32, Second Dist., block 16, North st., lots 1 to 32, Second Dist., block 16, Pavonia av., lots 1 to 32, Second Dist., block 16, Pavonia av., lots 1 to 32, Second Dist., block 116, Pavonia av., lots 1 to 32, Second Dist., block 116, Pavonia av., lots 1 to 32, and 31 to 32. ad 21 to 22, ond Dist., block 118. North st., lots 1 to 32, ond Dist., block 119. North st., lots 1 to 32, ond Dist., block 120. North st., lots 1 to 32, ond Dist., block 148. Provest st., lots 1 to 32, ond Dist., block 148. Provest st., lots 1 to 3 24,000 72,000

Second Dist., block 323, Jersey av., loted to 52.

Long Dock Company.

Fourth Dist., block 593, 81, Paul's av., lots 17 to 20.

Fourth Dist., block 593, 81, Paul's av., lots 17 to 20.

Fourth Dist., block 523, Summit av., lots 1 to 8..

Fourth Dist., block 523, Summit av., lots 1 to 8..

Fourth Dist., block 523, Summit av., lots 2 to 85.

Fourth Dist., block 523, Rurans st., lots 325 to 28.

Fourth Dist., block 523, Rurans st., lots 325 to 25.

Fourth Dist., block 523, Rurans st., lots 120 to 17.

Fourth Dist., block 523, Tuents st., lots 1610 17.

Fourth Dist., block 523, Tuents st., lots 1610 17.

Fourth Dist., block 523, Tuents st., lots 1610 17.

Fourth Dist., block 523, Tuents st., lots 1610 17.

Fourth Dist., block 523, Tuents av., plott 1 to 5.

Four h Dist., block 523, Nelson av., plots 1 and 2.

Fourth Dist., block 524, Nelson av., plots 6 and 7.

Fourth Dist., block 536, Germania av., plots 1 and 2.

Fourth Dist., block 156, Germania av., plots 4, 40, 50, and 57, 160 and 57.

Fourth Dist., block 156, Germania av., plots 1 and 2.

Fourth Dist., block 156, Germania av., plots 1 and 2.

Fourth Dist., block 158, Germania av., plots 1 and 2.

Fourth Dist., block 158, Germania av., plots 1 and 2.

Fourth Dist., block 158, Germania av., plots 1 and 2.

Fourth Dist., block 158, Germania av., plots 1 and 2.

Fourth Dist., block 158, Germania av., plots 1 and 2.

Fourth Dist., block 158, meadow lots 46, 47, 48,

Fourth Dist., block 158, areadow notes 1, 11. 16. 9, 50, and 57 urth Dist., block 1,300, meadow plots 1, 11, 16, 20,000 34.000 ourth Dist. block 1.300 meadow plots 56, 59, 61, and 62, are assessed to Jay Gould, but pay no fax Fifth Dist., block 530, Hoboken av., 1018 11, 20, 22, 24 to 33 Fifth Dist., block 533, Hoboken av., 1018 20, 5d, 5d, 7d, and 84 100,000 d, 7d, and 8d th Dist., block 552, Palisade av., lots 2, 4, and 14 th Dist., block 557, Fleet st., lots 5 and 16 th Dist., block 558, Fleet st., lots 5 to 16, and 47,000 h Dist, block 561, Hoboken av., lots 1 and 2, 3, 4, and 5.

Fifth Dist., block 562. St. Pani's av., lots 1 to 54.

Fifth Dist., block 571 Fleet st., lots 1 to 41. itth Dist., block 578, Sammit av., lots 1 to 34...

Total..... The Delaware, Luckawanna and Western Rail-oad Company, embracing the Morris and Essex ond, are not exacting; they come in for a mil-ion and a half, thus; First Dist., one plot.

econd Dist., block 20, block and pier econd Dist., block 20, Hudson st., lots 1 to 8;

Dist., block 60, Hudson st., lots 9 to 16,

one I to A

one Dist, block 60, loth st., lots 25 to 32,
one Dist, block 61, Hudson 81, lots 1 to 32,
one Dist, block 82, River 81, lots 1 to 32,
one Dist, block 93, River 81, lots 1 to 32,
one Dist, block 93, River 81, lots 1 to 32,
one Dist, block 93, River 81, lots 1 to 32,
one Dist, block 193, North 81, lots 1 to 32,
one Dist, block 193, North 81, lots 1 to 32,
one Dist, block 193, North 81, lots 1 to 32,
one Dist, block 193, North 81, lots 1 to 32,
one Dist, block 193, Neadow 81, lots 1 to 32,
one Dist, block 193, Neadow 81, lots 1 to 32,
one Dist, block 193, Provest 81, lots 1 to 8
and 30 to 32. and 30 to 32.

ccoud Dist., block 228, Grove st., lots 21 to 30
second Dist., block 262, 19th st., lots 10 to 31.
Second Dist., block 263, 20th st., lots 9 to 17.
Fourth Dist., block, 1,200 plots of 3,310....... Total..... \$924,000 Second Dist, block 31, block and pier Second Dist, block 52, Hudson st., lots 1 to 32, Second Dist., block 156, North st., lots 1 to 32, Second Dist., block 176, North st., lots 1 to 32, Second Dist., block 177, North st., lots 1 to 32, Second Dist., block 127 s. Meadow st., lots 1 o 5
cond Dist., block 159, Meadow at., lots 1 to \$2
cond Dist., block 160, Meadow at., lots 1 to \$2
cond Dist., block 161, Meadow at., lots 1 to \$2
cond Dist., block 191, Provost st., lots 1 to \$2
cond Dist., block 191, Provost st., lots 1 to \$2
cond Dist., block 191, Provost st., lots 1 to \$2
cond Dist., block 192, Provost st., lots 1 to \$2
cond Dist., block 193, Henderson st., lots 2
cond Dist., block 193, Henderson st., lots 9
cond Dist., block 193, Henderson st., lots 9

24,000 The Morris Canal, a stagnant pool in the

em end of the city, is considered a public bane-fit by its owners, and they figure for \$876,000, as

First District, block 33, bu khead First District, block 130, lots 87 to 103, Essex street. First District, block 131, gore and lots 100 to 104 First District, block 131, lots 95 to 108, Morris First District, block 164, lots A. B. C. and D.

Total . \$876,000 The Jersey City and Bergen Horse Railroad Company, a ride on whose cars costs more per mile than on any other road in the country, modestly take \$50,000, divided as follows: First District......

Total.... .955,000 These several grants summed up produce a total of \$15,936,500, independent of the vast personal property of the corporations, which if assessed, would increase the figures to twenty millions. In some instances the companies pay the State a tax of one-half of one per cent.

THE TRUE REFORMERS. Gen. Funk Threntened-The German Press

Paying its Respects to the Expiring Board of Supervisors of New York.

To the Editor of The Sun. Sin: Since the protest signed by the undersigned has appeared in your paper of this date, in which we desire to show fraud on the

part of certain officials, we have both been favored with anonymous letters by mail, of which the following is a full and correct copy: Papers are being drawn by which you and others will be held to answer for your attempts to swindle under cover of your official position. The Governor will have something to say. Your acts have been watched, your conversation listened to, and you will answer for both. We request you to publish this article, so that the wilter or writers of these letters, as well as all citizens and taxpayers, may know that we court a full investigation not only of these frauds, but of all our actions in the matter.

60,00

and citizens and taxpayers, may know that we court a full investigation not only of these frauds, but of all our actions in the matter. We believe the leases contracted for armorial purposes within the last year to be as corrupt as any ever made in this city. All threats against us are useless, and none can turn us from our duty.

Brig.-Gen. Com. Second Brigade, N. G.
Col. Com. Twenty-fifth Regt., N. G. S. N. Y.
NEW YORK, Dec. 24, 1872.

From the Staats Zeitung, Dec. 24.

The Board of Supervisors seem to be greatly troubled during the latter days of their existence about convircing the public that they are apt pupils of their predecessors in the method of squandering the public money. A strict examination of the proceedings at the last meeting of the Board of Supervisors for this year will, we fear, bring to light facts which would be very annoying to the taxpayer.

We would call the attention of those members of the Board who are not initiated in the secrets of the Ring, to the various leases of armories, upon which the Committee on Armorles and Drill Rooms have agreed and recommended to the board. How these contracts were agreed upon, the following may be an example:

The Ninety-sixth Regiment, whose armory has heretofore been located at the Germania Assembly Rooms (and which has since been condemned as unfit for an armory), have gone to the trouble of procuring a new and appropriate hall. After a great deal of trouble the Colonel of the regiment reported that Nilsson Hall. In Fifteenth street, between Irving place and Third avenue, could be procured. The rent asked for it at first was \$6,000 per annum. But when the proprietor became aware that the city intended to lease the place, he advanced his rent to \$10,000. In the meantime the Colonel of the Sixth Regiment became informed of the transaction, and immediately induced the above-named committee of \$14,000 per annum for the Sixth Regiment became informed of the transaction, and who when the colonel of the Board of Supervisors be willing that these livelies

missing to legalize the contract, and who will re-fuse to do so.

The leases of armories were, next to the new Court House, the principal source of corruption and fraud, and we had hoped at least that the present Supervisors would not walk in the foot-steps of their predecessors.

DEATH IN THE KITCHEN RANGE.

A Frezen Pipe and the Explosion that Fol-

HARRISBURG, Pa., Dec. 22.-Mrs. Knox. wife of Samuel Knox, of 208 Walnut street, died to-day from injuries received by the explosion of a range in her kitchen. During last night the fire had almost died out. On rising at 8 o'clock this morning, Mrs. Knox added wood and other fuel to the stove, and then took a seat in front to warm herself. The night had been exceedingly cold, and the water in the pine between the water back and the boiler had frozen. As the fire burned up steam was generated in the boller, and having no means of escape a terrific explosion was the result. The range was shattered into a thousand pieces. The hot coals and the fragments of metal were driven in every direction.

Mrs. Knox was struck by pieces of the iron in her face and chest and wounded fearfully. The burning embers were hurled upon her, her clothes were set on fire, and she was thrown back into the room a distance of six feet. She was so severely burned that the bones were laid

bare. In fact her arms and legs were almost stripped of flesh.

Mr. Knox was in bed at the time of the explosion. The noise and shaking of the house aroused him, and he hastened down stairs. He found his wife lying in the middle of the kitchen and from the condition of things at once guessed the cause of the accident. He endeavored to carry his wife into the yard, but was so severely and from the condition of thims at once guessed the cause of the accident. He endeavored to carry his wife into the yard, but was so severely burned in the attempt that he had to lay her upon the snow as soon as he had got her out at the door. He then ran for a piece of carpet on which to place her. In the meantime his son Samuel had made his way to his mother, and was applying snow to relieve her agonies, and to extinguish her dress which was still on fire.

Mrs. Knox was subsequently carried up to her bedroom and a dector was sent for. Every means was used to alloviate her sufferings, but in vain. She expired in great agony about five hours after the accident. She was sensible aimost to the last, and was able to make a statement as to how the disaster befell her.

The report of the explosion was, it is said, as loud as the noise made by the discharge of a cannon, and was heard a quarter of a mile from Mr. Knox's house. The houses in the vicinity were shaken, and the window frames in the kitchen were blown out bodily.

Four Persons Convicted of Murder by a Paper Gun Wad.

Paper Gun Wad.

From the Austin (Texas) Statesman, Dec. 14.

Ben Shelby, Arthur Shelby, Ball Woods, and William Smith were convicted of murder in the first degree, in Burnet county this week, and sentenced by Judge Turner to be hanged on Friday, the lith of January next. The prosecution was conducted by Judges Terrell and Walker, employed by the friends of the murdered man. The case was one of the most interesting in the annals of criminal trials, and the evidence, though conclusive, was entirely circumstantial. Ben McKeever, the murdered man, was shot from his horse at night near the residence of the Shelbys, his throat cut, and his body carried on horseback three miles and thrown into a cave in the prairie 150 feet deep. A large rock was placed on the bloody spot where his throat was cut, and apparently every precaution was taken to avoid detection. The appearance of the rock indicated to the keen eye of the frontiersman that it had been recently placed there. Close by it was paper wadding that had been fired from a shotgun. On examining the gun of Ben Shelby, paper wadding that had been fired from a shotgun was found under Shelby's doorstep. In his house was found the Chimue Corner periodical, and it was ascertained by comparison that the three pieces of gun wadding had been torn from that paper. A small fragment of McKeever's coat, of peculiar texture, found at the bloody spot, revealed the fact that the murder had been committed there. There were many other circumstances pointing to the accused persons as the murderers, but one deserves especial mention. On carefully placing the paper found where the blood had been covered by the rock, and comparing it with the wadding found in Ben. Shelby's gun, the following enigina could be read from one paper to another:

"With plece of paper or a slate." From the Austin (Texas) Statesman, Dec. 14.

"With place of paper or a slate.
Sit round the fire both large and small;
A letter make, almost meight,
And now you see what covers all."

A New Literary Star in New York.

From the St. Louis Republican.
We name Mrs. Mary Hewins Burnham of New York, first, because in the United States there is no other woman who possesses so much versatility, or who writs more engagingly. M. H. B. is a dramatist, a novelist, a poetess, and a rollicking nonparell correspondent, equally at home in all departments, and a mistress of satire, wit, pathos, and description.

The Newsboys Made Happy. Mr. Wm. M. Fliess, gave a Christmas dinner to the newboys at 49 Park Place yesterday. The most dis-tinguished gentlemen of the land had been invited. President Grant sent a courteous reply. Senator Ros-coe Conking was present. About four hundred and fifty boys were fed.

THE RING-GRIPPED CITY.

THE PRESS OF PHILADELPHIA AT THE MERCY OF DESPERADOES

Conviction of an Editor of Forney's Press for

Libel-Publication of the Mara Confession Adjudged a Crime-Desperate Efforts to

Conceal Truth in the Quaker City.

From the Philadelphia Age, Dec. 25.

Till it was ended we have not felt at liberty to comment on the criminal prosecution of an editor of the Press for an attempt to lift a corner of the dark pall that covers the bloody and mysterious transactions connected with what is known as "the Mara case." That hideous case, though carefully shrouded, revealed at least this, that a rich, numerous, desperate "Ring" in this city, control much of the machinery of government and of the administration of justice. This was shown in the pardon of the two assassins. Dougherty and Mara, while refusing to disclose their employers. These employers got their hired assas in sout of prison with a pardon, not as penitent, but as obdurate criminals, utterly refusing to aid public justice! When one of them was lately tried for a second assassination, we do not know an intelligent man, or an intelligent journal, Republican or Democratic, that did not regard the trial as an affair managed to conceal and exclude the truth. We remember no comment from any intelligent quarter that expressed any other view of it, though the Bulcitin and several other Republican journals in this State exonerated United States District Attorney Swope, who acted as private counsel for the prisoner, from any blame in the matter, casting the whole of it on Judge Paxson and District Attorney Mann, by whom they said Mr. Swope's well-meant EFFORTS TO ELICIT THE TRUTH WERE BAFFLED.

EFFORTS TO ELICIT THE TRUTH WERE BAFFLED. Our own views of the case we fully expressed at the time. As a sort of supplement to that trial, and after Mara was sentenced and s'enced, an alleged confession from him was published, heaping up crimes upon certain persons who could have played but subordinate parts in the dark and bloody drama. But this, too, served only to screen the big offenders. No presecution or investigation followed it against these offenders, big or little. It has only been followed by the prosecution of an editor for striving to penetrate the dark mystery of blood and crime. Yet the District Attorney of this city we may infer knows much about it. He was the private counsel of Mara in his first trial, employed, Mara says, through the same agency that employed him to shoot Mr. Brooks.

The late "confession" of Mara made at least one statement that seemed consistent with WELL-KNOWN FACTS.

MELL-KNOWN FACTS.

After his arrest for the assault on James Brooks, his lefence, and that of his companion Dougherty, was taken charge of by Alderman McMullen. That they were defended by Col. William B. Mann and Lewis Cassidy, Esq., who were employed by McMullen. That deponent never employed or paid them. That McMullen informed him that he had paid them 500 each, and explained to them the whole case.

(This recurred in October, 1800, and according

explained to them the whole case.

This occurred in October, 1869, and according to it Mr. Mann entered on his present office with a knowledge which it needed no subsequent confession of Mara to enlarge. But the public has yet to hear of any effort of the District Attorney to use his knowledge to uncover the dark mystery—quite the contrary. Yet it may surely be affirmed that it was his duty to use his knowledge in the interests of public justice, or else to take no part in the cases arising out of his client's act. He should have left them to an impartial deputy or to some other lawyer who had not been in the employ of Mara or of those who employed him. Of

THE CONDUCT OF THE PROSECUTION and of the ruings made in it, we may peak hereafter.

To-day we call attention to the following rul-ing, which we believe to be alike contrary to law, to the interests of the public, and the just liberty of the press:

The defence then offered to show that this article was submitted to officers of the Government familiar with the working of the Whiskey "Ring," and by them approved and pronounced substantially correct. Mr. Mann objected, and his objection was sus-

Mr. Mann objected, and his objection was sustained.

The publication of matter so verified is perfectly justifiable in a newspaper, and to deny it is to make the most careful and painstaking investigation a crime instead of a merit. Even if matter so obtained prove erroneous, there could be no malice in the publication, and a criminal prosecution for it should fall on that ground alone. This is both law and common sense, and the objection made to the testimony by Mr. Mann, and Judge Paxson's exclusion of it, need no labored argument to condemn them. We cite then now as specimens of the way in which this trial was conducted and the verdict obtained. That verdict is a new

REPROACH TO OUR JURY SYSTEM, which produces grand juries that ignore all

REPROACH TO OUR JURY SYSTEM,
which produces grand juries that ignore all
bills against the "Ring," and petit juries that
are no less obsequious in the same interest.
That this thing cannot last in a civilized community we believe fully; but that it has lasted
thus long in Philadelphia, may bring the bjush
of slame to the check of every decent man in it.
While it lasts, the position of a Philadelphia
journalist is a post of honor, and also a post of
danger. He may be shot in the back for five
dollars, and the assassin be pardoned. Or he may
be assailed in a court where "the Ring" gapt
on their own dunghill. Let him meet these as
the risks of his high profession, as the soldler
meets the risks that attend the profession of
arms. Let him fight for the right with the firur
assurance that his cause will at last triumph.

The Liberty of the Press Invaded.

From the Philadelphia Press, Dec. 25 Time was when the laws and courts were the servants of the people, but on the contrary, very much to gain from them, provided they make themselves useful, while honest men who reluke or expose their villainies have everything

That this is not an imaginary nor even an exaggerated picture, the proceedings in the case of the Commonwealth against the city editor of this journal, which are reported elsewhere, fully establish. This gentleman—an upright, honorable, law-abding citizen—has been arrested, tried, and convicted, and, unless the application for a new trial shall be granted, may be

IMPRISONED LIKE A FELON

for the simple performance of his bounder duty
as a journalist in preparing for publication news
of engrossing and paramount public interest,
bearing upon an infamous conspiracy to assassinate a Government officer. The conspirators
themselves walk the streets unmadested experiences

ileged spectators, and all now rejoice at the result.

It is not necessary to go through the details of the evidence to demonstrate that Mr. Taylor was wholly guiltless of libed, even according to the letter of the fearful Pennsylvania law on this subject. The article prepared under his direction, and complained of by the prosecution did not, in the first place, charge that Mr. David H. Lane had been guilty of any misconduct whatsoever, but simply stated in effect that the discipler of the properties of which had contributed to the fund from which the Brooks assassins were to have been paid, was that one in which Mr. Lane and another contleman named were interested. Witnesses were at hand to prove this, and to some extent it was exterted from those summoned for the prosecution by risid cross-examination. Yet, though it was admitted by the prosecuting attorney that the truth of the statements complained of might be adduced in evidence, the witnesses called for this express purpose were

NOT PERMITTED TO TESTIFY.

In the second place, neither the preparation or combined and accounts of accounts of accounts of accounts of accounts of accounts.

Not permitted to testify.

In the second place, neither the preparation nor publication of any matter of news in a newspaper can with any reason be regarded as primal facte evidence of malice, however damaging its character, and whatever construction musty old statutes and precedents may have put upon the printing of any such matter. It is absurd to held that whenever a reporter learns, from the central station or other source, that John Smith has committed a murder, and forthwith writes down the same for his paper, he is guilty of presumptive malice, and therefore of a technical libel. But whatever the presumption generally, in this case the defendant was prepared to prove that he not only had no malicious intent, but did not even know the party claiming to have been ilbelled, nor had heard of him before the information was given which was the basis of information was given which was the basis the alleged libel. If the defendant did not clusted establish this, it was because the dence was objected to and excluded.

dence was objected to and excluded.

A RETRACTION UNAVAILING.

In the third place, if the statements published had been technically libellous, they were completely and unqualifiedly retracted in the succeeding edition of the Press, so far as Mr. Lane was concerned, a magnarimity and a concession to an antiquated and irrational law of libel which should have been considered an ample ameed. That such explicit retraction was not so considered and accepted as sufficient, is strong tresumptive evidence that Mr. Lane was exzed on by others furthis disgraceful attempt to over use the public press of the city and tenify it into silence, so that a set of graceless scoundrels might not only continue to escape legal punishment, but receive no further exposure or denunciation from the organs of the people.

If it is decided that the publication of such important news matter as the Marra contession, and corroborative facts, is an offence punishable by fine and imprisonment, all newspapers might as well suspend at once, and, along with the liberty of the press, surrender everything, popular government included.

What a Flagman Found on the Fourth Ares nuc Railroad.

Early yesterday morning the flagman on the ourth Avenue Railroad discovered an arm of a human eing near the track at Seventy-first street. A bitte fellig field the found a leg, with a boot on was called further on he found a leg, with a boot on was called of a pair of pantaloons. Officer Cudney was called the and the flagman went on still further and came across the reinal ing portion of the body. Fie shall was tractured and the hair torn from the scale. In a wallet found in the coat pocket was a paper on which the following was written:

New York, July 25, 1812.**

New York, Ju

This is to certify that Martin Healy has the pledge to abstain from drinking I not for strom date.

St. Joseph Church, lith street.